



July 29, 2011

EX PARTE

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109; Universal Service Contribution Methodology, WC Docket No. 06-122; Numbering Resource Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200; Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98; Intercarrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic, CC Docket No. 99-68; IP-Enabled Services, WC Docket No. 04-36

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

Today AT&T, CenturyLink, Fairpoint Communications, Frontier Communications, Verizon and Windstream Corporation have filed a proposal for reform of universal service and intercarrier compensation that they have named the “America’s Broadband Connectivity Plan.”

The United States Telecom Association Board of Directors, comprised of executives representing every facet of the local exchange industry – companies large and small, urban and rural, operating both as price cap and rate of return carriers – offers its endorsement of the America’s Broadband Connectivity Plan as providing a positive forward-looking framework from which all participants in the broadband ecosystem can work together towards our common goals of achieving expanded broadband deployment, increased broadband investment, and greater stability and predictability in the financial fundamentals of the telecommunications industry.

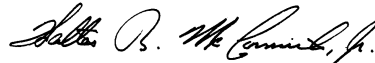
Collectively, USTelecom member companies serve most of rural America – reaching approximately 85% of all Americans living in rural areas. Universal service and intercarrier compensation reform in the very near term are critical to our nation’s broadband future,

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Page 2 of 2

particularly in sparsely populated regions. In making this endorsement, the USTelecom Board took note of the fact that this plan has been crafted with the input of both price cap and rate-of-return carriers serving rural America, and that it has benefited from consultation with the broader industry – including cable companies, wireless companies, competitive local exchange carriers, voice-over-internet providers, and their associations.

USTelecom looks forward to working with the architects of America's Broadband Connectivity Plan; with other companies, associations, and industries in the broadband ecosystem; and with the Commission in building support for positive reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter B. McCormick, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Walter B. McCormick, Jr.